GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:220
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2002
PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY DEGRADABLE PLASTIC
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;PATY RIPPLE KYNDIAH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any special action plan for a fresh protocol on the promotion of "Environmentally Degradable" plastic in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent plastic pollution indicating the time by which environmentally degradable plastic is likely to be made available in the Indian market?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a), (b) &(c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART(S) (a) & (b), (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION N0. 220 TO E
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY , THE 29th JULY 2002 REGARDING PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY DEGRADABLE PL
RAISED BY SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH AND SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY, MP.

(a) & (b) A report on Technology Status and Prospects of Bio-degradable plastics in India has been prepared . Some of the major recommendations are;

1. Policy support be extended to degradable plastics ,

2. Standards be evolved for bio-degradable plastics,

3. Public-private partnership be established for production of bio-degradable plastics.

Further, a Committee constituted on plastics waste disposal has recommended that support for R&D should be provided for development of non-plastic alternatives as also degradable / bio-degradable plastics.

(c) To prevent plastic pollution, a set of rules entitled, " Recycled Plastics Manufacture & Usage Rules, 1999" were notified prescribing a minimum thickness of 20 microns for plastic carry bags and prohibiting the use of recycled plastics for packaging and dispensing of food stuff.

A draft notification amending the above mentioned rules, inter alia, banning manufacture and use of carry bags below 8 x 12 inches in size has also been notified on 1st July 2002